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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60962  
PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4A  
ENTERED  
DEPT  
11-7-00

In re application of

Hidekuni MORIYA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/674,620

Filed: November 03, 2000



Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING APPARATUS, IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING METHOD AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAR 20 2001  
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

7. (Amended) An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said picture element characteristic determining unit determines picture elements to be moiré picture elements if the distribution in said range of smaller differences is dominant and if said distribution is polarized positively or negatively.

10. (Amended) An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said image data retouching unit obtains a retouching value for the luminance value of said image data, and adds the retouching value to the tone values of element colors to retouch the image data.

11. (Amended) An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in Claim 10, wherein: